

9/18/71

Dear Gary,

We had a very pleasant, if too short, visit from Ned, who we have come to like more the more we see of him. Among other things, he is as decent as he is honest, and aside from a small proportion of the critics with whom I remain in touch, I can't say this of as many as I'd like to.

In time, you and he will be together and He'll tell you what there is to say.

He told me of your concern that something may be wrong with us because I haven't been writing you as much. There is nothing wrong with us other than the natural progression of our pre-existing problems. In some ways, especially financial and their natural by-product, they are, of course, worse, but this does not account for my having written you so much less.

You appear not have to have detected the forecast of it or the reason. Several times in the past I asked if you were not spreading yourself too thin, then I got more pointed and asked if your effort to keep up with your required work and your career did not make it necessary for you to curtail your assassination work. When it became obvious that you could not do all of the things you want to, I urged you to drop the assassination work at least until you completed your thesis. Have you forgotten these things?

So, I didn't want to be in the position of teasing you, and I'd didn't want you to be in the position of being tormented.

Some time back I made other decision I also then communicated to you, and again you seem not to have caught what I was saying. After all the evils of which you will have some recall, I decided that the basis for continuing this work was a modification of what the spookery calls need-to-know, meaning this and the possibility of constructive purposes to be served. I just can't write as many letters as I did and keep writing and researching and all the other things. My place, for example, has become a mess (partly because I can't afford lawnmowers I can keep in operation, partly because I don't take the time to keep it as it should be, which had always been the exercise I need and enjoy.) I take a brisk walk in the a.m. and that is my exercise.

So, it is neither personal nor new problems, not sickness. It is just the normal pressures here and not to make new, abnormal pressures there. When you are here, I'll update you as much as you want. I've finished the draft of the last part of PM, have the first two to edit, then will return to AGENT OSWALD, already started, then probably TIGER, also started, and meanwhile I've laid the foundation for at least a dozen suits, etc., and from time to time, as right now, I have a fair amount of work to do on the Ray case, where the real problems to contend with are greater than you can imagine. But perhaps the greatest disappointment and the most serious problem are from the crooked publishers, who have beat me out of perhaps \$4,000, plus what they have cost them and us by abdication. Not having this money that is due is and we urgently need, gave my nerves a bad time of it for about six weeks, inevitably this rubs off on Lil, whose haital nemia is just, in fact, I think a bit benefitted by Ned's presence, just begun to get back to what for it is normal. Aside from these things, the only new problems are the old problems, finding time, money, help and coping with the nuts like Bud and his crew, tolerating their excesses, and the publisher and press attitude toward the subject...And there is a new generation, a small new wave with whom I spent and have spent much time, like Howard and Jerry. They want to be helpful and in ways are, but really I am helping them prepare. Howard's progress is a joy. He began with an exceptional intelligence and in all ways a fine character and he has progressed remarkably. I have, for illustration, given him my Vietnam files going way, way back to before the assassination. Or, all we could find. I've turned all of that over to him. Jerry can best fill the part you and Hal did, and he has a flair for it and is excellent at it. He'll not have time for deep research. I've other letters to write. Best regards,